



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Maritime  
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

July 5, 2007

Mr. Bruce H. Wolfe  
Executive Officer  
San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board  
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

It is of prime importance that obsolete vessels be removed from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet as soon as possible. Accordingly, this is to advise you that the Maritime Administration plans to lift its moratorium on disposing of ships from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet effective August 1, 2007, unless you otherwise object.

Prior to removing vessels from California waters, the Agency will clean hulls using the contained scamping procedure my staff described at the June 27, 2007 meeting in your offices. We plan to implement and confirm the efficacy of the system in Alameda and invite you to observe the system and participate in monitoring and sampling of effluent generated as well as captured. We advise the Water Quality Control Board of the timing and details of the next hull cleaning event as we move forward.

I look forward to receiving the Water Quality Control Board's agreement to the hull cleaning approach so that the Maritime Administration can remove vessels from the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet as quickly as possible. We anticipate removing up to 15 of the 53 vessels owned by the Maritime Administration within a year, depending upon the availability of recycling facilities and funding. This will reduce the fleet by almost a third, with further reduction planned in 2008 and 2009.

Should you have questions concerning this matter, please call Michael Carter, the Director of our Office of Environment, at (202) 366-9431.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean T. Connaughton".

Sean T. Connaughton  
Maritime Administrator